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12/2/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Grant Wayne Heinicke et al. Examiner: To be assigned  
Serial No.: 19/606,629 Art Unit: 1615  
Filed: 06/29/2000 Docket:  
For: CONTROLLED ABSORPTION Dated: November 22, 2000  
DILTIAZEM  
PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Please amend the above identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

No changes requested.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel all pending claims.

Please add new claims 91-101 as follows:

Rule 126

60 --91.

A long lag pellet suitable for use in a once-a-day diltiazem formulation comprising:

- 1) a core comprising an effective amount of diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, the core being substantially free of organic acid;